

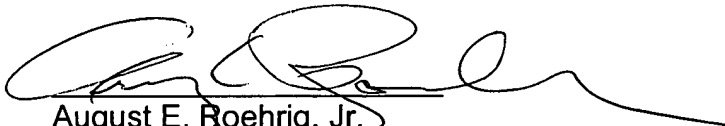
REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

The Office Action contends that the claims of this application are directed to patentably distinct species of the claimed invention, grouping the structure illustrated in Figs. 1-4 as Group I and the structure illustrated in Fig. 5 as Group II. In accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicant is required to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. While the Office Action contends that no claims are generic, Applicant submits that both Claim 1 and newly added Claim 16 are in fact generic claims which read on the structures identified in both Groups I and II.

For purposes of a response to the Office Action, Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute the invention as illustrated in Figs. 1-4. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

Applicant respectfully traverses this restriction requirement for the reason that at least Claim 1 is generic to the structure disclosed in Figs. 1-4 (Group I) and Fig. 5 (Group II). Because no prior art has been presented which would effect the patentability of Claim 1, Claim 1 is presumed to be allowable and if allowable, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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